

MUSIC

R.E.M. Update Comments On What To Expect

by Jess Davis

"We don't like to do the same thing everybody else does," said bass guitarist Mike Mills of his band, REM, who will be playing in Drew's Baldwin Gym on April 30. In following with this tradition, at the concert REM will be playing a lot of material from their new album, *Fables of the Reconstruction*, which is scheduled to be released May 27.

Recorded with a new producer and in a new city, London, instead of the usual Athens, Georgia, Mills says the new album will be full of surprises. Peter Buck plays banjo on one of the tracks and rumor has it that one song includes an organ. Because of Mitch Easter's busy schedule producing other bands and working with his own band, Let's Active, REM decided to try something new. "We just wanted to see what someone else would do with it, just for the difference's sake," Mills commented. The band chose Joe Boyd, who basically goes for a folk sound on the rock albums he produces. "A synthesizer reduces even a good song to sounding just like everything else. Most

people don't really know how to use them except in the same old tried and true way, and it just gets really old," Mills said.

According to Mills the new album will sound different from previous albums. "We're not the same band we were," said Mills. But to reassure the die-hard REM fans Mills continued, "What is the REM sound? It's still just the four of us up there playing."

Mills said that during their two weeks of college dates, REM plans to play mostly tunes from the new album, some unrecorded material, and some of the older songs as well. "We play whatever feels right." Mostly, he said, it depends on the band's mood and the audience's mood. "If somebody wants a request and it's the right kind of night then we'll do that."

REM also has a free attitude concerning their future plans. "We don't really have any plans. We're just going to keep doing this just one step at a time like we have been and see where it takes us." So far it's taken this talented band to unexpected critical and popular success.



R.E.M. offers a slightly new sound on their forthcoming album, *Fables of the Reconstruction*, which is scheduled to be released on May 27th.

Is the Pop Market Looking Up?

by Ted Bowes

WHAT do the British bands Tears for Fears and Depeche Mode have in common? Both of these groups are on the verge of making it to the U.S. pop scene in a big way. After a lengthy break-in period through college radio, commercial radio picked up on the music.

When Depeche Mode played in New York City, a major portion of the crowd was young; an important economic factor for the record companies. Through out their driving performance a sing along atmosphere prevailed, with "Blasphemous Rumours", a song about death and suicide. This was the highlight of the evening. Depeche Mode has to be one of the best social consciousness bands around, and the question arises; is their astounding rise in popularity a sign of hope for pop music tomorrow?

Tears for Fears is another unusual addition to the Top 40 charts. Even WNEW and WDHA have been playing "Everybody Wants to Rule the World", which happens to be #28 on Billboard's top 100 airplay chart. Let's face it, the song has that mellow mid-tempo sound fitting the pop pattern; ideal for a success oriented group.

Other less well known progressive groups are continuing to build up their steam. One such example is English Evening with "I Will Return". Marching feet and church bells give this song motion, very similar to The Alarm. The vast amount of energy released makes this OK for the dance floor or radio, but you wouldn't want to try and sleep to it. For those of you into bands who take

noise to the limit, The Swans and Einsturzenende Neubaten may be for you. The music is slow and pounding with an intensity undoubtedly proportional to your tolerance.

Yello's new album is very unique. "Vicious Games" is a track with dance rhythms in it, while "Koladi-Ola" could only be recreated through amphetamine drained Beatles. Koladi-Ola is full of snap and funk.

The November Group are definite candidates for pop music. But don't hold the techno-pop sound against them; while the lyrics involve toil to achieve success, they are not overly message minded. Two dance cuts are "Work That Dream" and "Put Your Back to It".

The Boomtown Rat's new album *In the Long Grass* is quite good. While not unlike some of their other music, the album has merits of its own. Overall the songs are bassy and slow, great to kick back and listen to.

Guadalcanal Diary has released a new album featuring "Watusi Rodeo" and "Kum Ba Yah". Yes, that's the song you used to sing in church. The band has a strong rock'n'roll sound that has to be heard live to be fully appreciated. Another band that has to be heard live is The Neats, and guess what, you don't even have to leave campus to go see them. The Neats are opening up for R.E.M. on April 30.

Sisters of Mercy, the lizards of Leeds, will have their new album *First and Last* and *Always* released domestically by Elektra/Asylum. A giant step forward for this macabre band.

The New Intentions to Highlight Media Blitz

by Jon Ward

"Do you remember...?" is a phrase we all find cliché, but when we talk about the old Pub and Jump Johnson it is quite appropriate. The Pub may never regain its lost stature, but some of Jump's members are back and better than ever playing in the newly formed group, The Intentions.

This Friday, April 19, The Intentions will be playing at the Media Blitz in the Haselton courtyard. Sponsored by the Communications Board, the Blitz begins at 3 p.m. with six-foot subs and lots of fun in the sun. The Blitz will be the first appearance on campus for the new Intentions, although Mario Casella and Byron Smith, two of the band's members, are old Pub favorites.

Mario (guitar, vocals) and Byron (guitar, vocals) began as a duo playing area clubs, and have brought together an experienced group of musicians. In the past, Mario played with Charlie Midnite (CBS Records) whose videos have

appeared on MTV. Newcomers include Carlo Novi on sax and George Myer on keyboards. Carlo, formerly of the Asbury Jukes, has added new dimensions to the group with his lively sax solos. George, who has played with Meatloaf and the Ian Hunter Band, has given the band more diversity.

When asked what kind of music The Intentions play, Mario responds with true style, "We play the music we have fun with." "My Girl," "Brown Eyed Girl," "Walk Away Renee," "Summertime Blues," and "Good Love" are just some of the songs they perform with heart and soul. Whether you want to bop or just lay back and listen to some great musicians play your old favorites. The Intentions are made to order.

If there are some out there who, like me, can't get enough of The Intentions, the band has a hotline number. And on Saturday, April 20, they'll be having a good time at Freddy's in Bernardsville. See you at the Blitz.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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WMNJ presents

"Reggae Riddems"

Tuesday, April 23rd

8:30p.m.-10p.m.